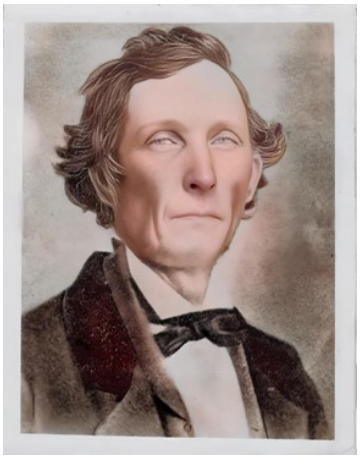
Livingston County Historical Society 2025 Newsletter

This year has been another busy and productive one for our Society.

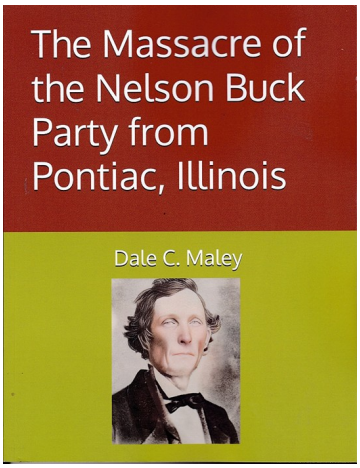
February
Dale gave a presentation on the Underground Railroad in Livingston County at the Pontiac Library.

The room at the Library could not hold all the people, so many of them came to the Historical Society meeting to hear this presentation the next week.

March
Dale gave a presentation about the Nelson Buck surveying party from Pontiac that was massacred by the Sioux in Nebraska in 1869.



Dale wrote a book about this and copies are at the Pontiac Library. Copies can also be purchased at the Strevell House.



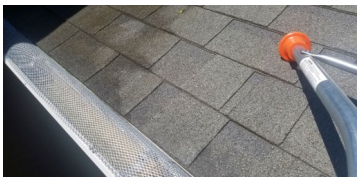
The contents on display at the Jones House were re-organized and 6 boxes of items moved to the archives in the Dungeon.

April
Dale researched and gave a presentation about Albert Cashier, the woman who served as man during the entire Civil War and lived in Saunemin after the War.

May
Had an excellent Annual potluck supper held at the Strevell House. Dale cooked hamburgers on the grille and everyone brought tasty food items.

June
Dale and Roger Kutzner gave a presentation about local Native American history to a packed room at the Fairbury Dominy Library.

Dale installed gutter screens on the Strevell House to prevent the Maple tree whirlybirds from plugging the new gutters.



July
Board voted to make the southeast bedroom in the 2nd story of the Strevell House a Thomas F. Googerty exhibit. With the help of Ron Baker, all Googerty related items at the Jones House, including about 12 oil paintings, were moved to the new Googerty Room.

Dale designed and assembled all the items needed for the new Googerty room including a mock fireplace and a display case.

Dale used AI (Artificial Intelligence) and 3D printing to make plastic display replicas of Googerty items.

August
Dale gave talk August 19 in Forrest to Livingston County Retired Teachers about **Life before the Railroads.**

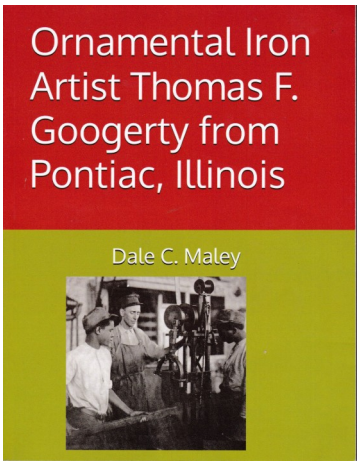
September
Dale gave a presentation about his work preserving history during the Summer of 2025.

The Thomas F. Googerty Room on the 2nd story of the Strevell House was officially opened for visitors.

Dale repaired some rotting porch column bases on the Jones House east porch.

October
Dale gave a presentation about nationally known ornamental iron artist Thomas F. Googerty, a native of Pontiac.

Dale researched and wrote a book about Thomas F. Googerty with copies donated to the Pontiac Library. Copies can also be purchased at the Strevell House. Thanks go to Ron Baker for reviewing draft copies of this book.



November
Dale and Roger Kutzner gave a presentation about Native American history in our area.

December
Our special December meeting was a great presentation about the Boy's Reformatory built in 1871 in Pontiac. Thanks go to Joyce for getting the excellent catered desserts!

New Local History Books

Dale researched and wrote new local history books about Nelson Buck and Thomas F. Googerty. Copies are available at the Pontiac Library and can be purchased at the Strevell House.

New Local Historical YouTube Videos
Many of the presentations given at meetings in 2025 have been converted to YouTube videos. These can be accessed at our web site using this link.

2026
We wish everyone a Happy Holiday season.

We have several great presentations already planned for 2026. These will likely include the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 and the 150th Anniversary of the Fairbury Fair.